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Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-05

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSC-01 /007 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:HRMELONE:CHG
9/1/73
APPROVED BY AF/E - MR COOTE
AF/P - MR. PELTIER
---------- 119769
R 011702Z SEP 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652:GDS -DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT
TAGS: PFOR, ZR, US
SUBJECT: ZAMBIAN PRESS RELEASE ON SOGHOIAN ARREST

ZAMBIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON ISSUED AUGUST 30 FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON SOGHOIAN ARREST (UNNCESSARY WORDS OMITTED):

QUOTE: ON EVENING AUGUST 28,1973, MR MARSHALL SOGHOIAN, AN AMERICAN NATIONAL, WAS ARRESTED BY FBI IN WASHINGTON DC ON CHARGES THAT MR SOGHOIAN HAD ACTED AS AN AGENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA WITHOUT HAVING BEEN DULY REGISTERED AS SUCH AGENT. FOLLOWING STATEMENT IS MADE BY ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT TO SET FORTH ITS POSITION IN THIS MATTER:

MR SOGHOIAN IS WELL-KNOWN TO GOZ, FOR WHICH HE HAS SERVED AS ADVISER ON ELECTRONIC AND OTHER TECHNICAL MATTERS OVER PERIOD OF MANY YEARS. MR SOGHOIAN HAS OPERATED IN THIS CAPACITY IN AN OPEN AND CANDID MANNER AND HIS ACTIVITIES WERE, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, FULLY KNOWN BY APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE CAME INTO REPEATED CONTACT. MR. SOGHOIAN HAS BEEN COMPENSATED FOR HIS SERVICES BY GOZ AND HAS, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, REPORTED SUCH COMPENSATION ON HIS US FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURNS, WHICH HAVE BEEN DULY FILED.
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AS A DEVELOPING NATION, ZAMBIA MUST, OF NECESSITY, PROCURE VARIOUS TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS FROM

MORE HIGHLY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR ITS COPPER, RADIO AND CAR INDUSTRIES, AS WELL AS FOR ITS SCHOOLS AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES. MR. SOGHOIAN'S SERVICES WERE UTILIZED TO STUDY POTENTIAL SOURCES FOR SUCH EQUIPMENT AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ZAMBIAN PROCUREMENT OFFICIALS AS TO WHICH PRODUCT LINES SHOULD BE ACQUIRED. INSOFAR AS GOZ IS AWARE, POTENTIAL SOURCES OF SUPPLY WITH WHICH MR. SOGHOIAN DEALT WERE THOSE AVAILABLE TO ANY POTENTIAL PURCHASER ON OPEN MARKET.

GOZ ALSO WISHES TO STATE THAT, BASED ON ITS PRESENT INFORMATION, ALL EQUIPMENT ACTUALLY PROCURED THROUGH MR. SOGHOIAN'S SERVICES WERE PROCESSED FOR EXPORT THROUGH APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND OFFICES OF USG AFTER NECESSARY EXPORT PERMITS AND OTHER CERTIFICATIONS HAD BEEN OBTAINED. ALTHOUGH SOME OF THESE PURCHASES WERE MADE FOR CASH, ACCURATE AND DETAILED RECORDS WERE KEPT AS TO ALL SUPPLIERS, QUANTITIES AND AMOUNTS INVOLVED, AND OTHER RELEVANT DATA.

GOZ IS MOST DISTRESSED THAT, IN CONNECTION WITH ARREST OF MR. SOGHOIAN, AGENTS OF FBI SEIZED DOCUMENTATION BELONGING TO ZAMBIA AS WELL AS TRUST FUNDS, IN FORM OF CHECKS, WHICH MR. SOGHOIAN WAS HOLDING INCIDENTAL TO ZAMBIAN PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES. GOZ IS AWARE OF NO JUSTIFICATION FOR RETENTION OF ITS PROPERTY BY FBI AND WILL TAKE VIGOROUS ACTION TO HAVE SUCH PROPERTY RETURNED TO IT.

ZAMBIA IS ENGAGED IN A DIFFICULT TASK ALONG WITH OTHER DEVELOPING NATIONS, TO ATTAIN COMPLETE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM, AND TO FOSTER ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL GROWTH. ALL COUNTRIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ENGAGED IN EFFORTS TO ASSIT ZAMBIA AND ITS PEOPLE IN THEIR ARDUOUS TASK, ARE REGARDED AS FRIENDS OF ZAMBIA AND ITS BELOVED PRESIDENT. GOZ VIEWS MR SOGHOIAN IN THIS LIGHT.

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ACCORDINGLY, GOZ WISHES STATE CATEGORICALLY AND IN STRONGEST TERMS POSSIBLE THAT IT VIEWS ARREST OF MR SOGHOIAN AS UNJUSTIFIED ACTION CALCULATED TO EMBARRASS GOZ AND ITS PEOPLE. GOZ IS CONFIDENT THAT OPEN AND OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS OF MR SOGHOIAN'S ACTIVITIES IN THIS COUNTRY WILL MAKE IT APPARENT TO ANY FAIR OBSERVER THAT NO WRONGFUL ACTION OF ANY KIND HAS TAKEN PLACE. UNQUOTE

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WASHINGTON POST QUOTED PARTS OF ZAMBIAN RELEASE IN AUGUST 31 ARTICLE HEADLINED QUOTE ZAMBIA PROTESTS ARREST UNQUOTE.

ITEM INCLUDED INFO ON SOGHOIAN'S RELEASE ON LOWERED BOND AND ALSO CONTAINED FBI SPOKESMAN'S REPORTED STATEMENT THAT ANY DATA SEIZED WAS TAKEN LEGALLY TO BE HELD AS EVIDENCE AND THAT US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MUST DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH SUCH DATA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE175068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HRMELONE:CHG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730958/aaaabqlf.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAMBIAN PRESS RELEASE ON SOGHOIAN ARREST ZAMBIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON ISSUED AUGUST 30 FOLLOWING
TAGS: PFOR, ZA, US
To: LUSAKA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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